

was resolved very casually indeed. Many believe Rodman should have been suspended for the entire season. That would have been an appropriate conclusion.

Rodman was seen laughing about the incident and one of his teammates complained that the cameraman should have more promptly removed himself from the arena floor.

One is a victim of a senseless assault and battery and the victim should jump to his feet and promptly apologize to his attacker? Hardly.

The attitude of many of these NBA stars is reprehensible, Mr. Speaker. Some recent years ago an NBA star was accused of improper involvement with gambling interests and possible involvement with organized crime. His response was that most people did not appreciate the pressure that surrounded his life.

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I have news for this self-appointed celebrity. He does not know the meaning of pressure. The guy under pressure is working for \$9 an hour, who wants to purchase his son a ticket so he can watch these millionaire athletes display their wares on the hardwood. I am told that fewer fans, Mr. Speaker, are viewing televised NBA games. This may not be supported by polling data, but common sense tells me that many Americans are fed up with the condescending attitude expressed by these overnight millionaires.

Perhaps they should have to try their luck at \$9-an-hour jobs. Then maybe they would appreciate the fact that fans who pay their hard-earned money deserve more respect. They might then appreciate the fact that millionaire athletes, or celebrities, are indeed role models. They are not required to be good role models, but they cannot on the one hand warmly embrace their money, fame, and celebrity status, and then on the other hand reject their casting as role models. It does not work that way, fellas, and this is the climate which the NBA is now extending to high school graduates.

I was recently asked, Mr. Speaker, if I would pay to attend an NBA game. One team has regional exposure to my congressional district; another team is coached by a good friend of mine. Aside from these two teams, I would pay to watch only one team in the NBA. That team has never won an NBA title, although they annually advance well into the playoff season, but no cigar is awarded. But this team is a class organization and if more NBA teams would emulate them, there would likely be an increase in spectator interest.

If these self-serving overpaid athletes do not get their acts together, spectator interest will continue to wane and perhaps they will have the chance at one of those \$9-an-hour jobs, and then, Mr. Speaker, they will really know what pressure is.

#### SUPPORT FOR A BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the full 5 minutes, although I will yield to a colleague after I say a few words about the bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act.

This is an issue that has been with us since the founding of our democracy. I happen to represent northern Virginia, the home of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Some of my colleagues may not be aware that the first time that George Washington ran for office he was defeated. He ran for the House of Delegates for Virginia and he lost. His advisers came to him after he lost and said, "General Washington, the problem is that you did not treat." They explained that the custom is to distribute whiskey to the landowners on election day. Sure enough, next election, he treated and he won overwhelmingly.

James Madison had the same problem. He did not learn from George Washington's experience and he lost, and then he went back to treating. Treating led to what they called macing, where essentially a candidate would dun the members of his political party for contributions. Well, one thing led to another, and now we have a system that is in desperate need of another major reform.

We have had many reforms. The 1974 reform was one such major reform. In fact, let me quote from Lyndon Johnson in 1967. In a special address to this Congress, he said, "Our current campaign finance laws are inadequate in scope and now obsolete. More loophole than law, they invite evasion and circumvention."

It took 7 years and the Watergate break-ins before Congress passed real reform. Those words, though, are equally true today. We have got to reform campaign finance law. It is corrupting the political process as well as the legislative process.

We have a bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act, terrific people on both sides of the aisle are cosponsoring it. We have the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA], the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN], the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. LEACH], and the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE]. I can go on and on. And these Republican Members are in addition to a long list of Democratic cosponsors.

One of those folks, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP], is one of the Republican sponsors. Mr. Speaker, I will yield to Mr. WAMP now to conclude my 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I have to say in opening I am from Chattanooga, TN, home of the Cin-

derella team this year in the Sweet 16, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the Moccasins; the Mockingbirds, excuse me. We have changed our name.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, the businessman from Texas, Mr. Ross Perot, who sometimes I agree with, sometimes I may not, but he said that we have good people in Washington trapped in a bad system. I certainly believe that there are good people serving in the U.S. Congress but the system of campaign reform, which has not changed since 1974, needs to be changed.

There is no perfect bill, there is no silver bullet, there is no magic solution. It is very complex, but it is a bipartisan problem. This week the Democrats may be in more trouble on this issue than the Republicans, but who is to say that the system may not swing the other way. I really believe neither party has an exclusive on integrity or an exclusive on ideas. This is a problem that both parties share.

Some basic principles we should agree on and change is that a majority of our money in campaigns should come from our home States; that the influence of special interest political action committees should be reduced; that we should ban soft money, corporate contributions to the political parties that are funneled back into media advertising should be eliminated; and that we should somehow work to reduce the overall money spent on political campaigns in America.

I think we can agree on those basic principles. Conflict, Mr. Speaker, brings about resolution, and we have a conflict in this country. Yes, every day there is new revelations, but it is time to use these conflicts to bring about change. There is no perfect solution, but we must agree on some basic principles, come together in a bipartisan way.

I do not agree with everything in the bipartisan campaign bill but I believe we can change it and improve it as we go. The issue is, will we defend the status quo again this year in this body, or will we come together and change this system for the first time in 23 years? The status quo obviously is not serving us well in campaign laws. Reform is in order.

If Members have ideas, if they have disagreements, come to the reform movement. Do not fight it or look the other way or make excuses to get by any longer.

#### ENDING FEDERAL RACE AND GENDER PREFERENCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. CANADY] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I rise to address legislation I will soon introduce to end

the use of race and gender preferences by the Federal Government in Federal employment, Federal contracting and in the administration of other Federal programs.

The principles of equal treatment and nondiscrimination on which this legislation is based, are principles which are at the heart of the American experience. They embody an ideal which generations of Americans have honored and sought to realize, an ideal to which we as a people have long aspired, but an ideal which we have never fully attained in our life as a nation.

The first Justice Harlan once said, "Our constitution is color-blind. The law regards man as man and takes no account of his surroundings or of his color when his civil rights as guaranteed by the supreme law of the land are involved."

With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Congress established a national policy against discrimination based on race and sex. It is the supreme irony of the modern civil rights movement that this crowning achievement was soon followed by the creation of a system of preferences based on race and gender, a system contrived first by administrative agencies and the Federal courts and then accepted and expanded by this Congress.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act constituted an unequivocal statement that Americans should be treated as individuals and not as members of racial or gender groups, an unequivocal statement that no American should be subject to discrimination, which Senator Hubert Humphrey, the chief Senate sponsor of the legislation, defined as a distinction in treatment given to different individuals because of their race.

The system of preferences is based on the notion that we can only overcome our history of discrimination by practicing discrimination. Those who support preferences believe that to guarantee the equitable apportionment of opportunities, Americans must be divided, sorted, and classified by race and gender. They assert that it is a responsibility of the Government not to create a level playing field for all Americans, but to determine outcomes based on race and gender.

My legislation to end preferences rejects this vision of America. It would overturn the status quo of race and gender preferences and return to the principles on which the 1964 Civil Rights Act was based. In place of group rights, it would establish respect for individual rights.

It is important to note that this legislation does not affect our comprehensive regime of antidiscrimination laws. All forms of racial and sex-based discrimination that are illegal under current law would remain illegal.

It is also important to understand that the bill draws an important distinction between preferential treatment and affirmative action. Preferential treatment is prohibited, and affirmative action, as originally con-

ceived, is permitted and expressly protected.

Under the legislation, the Government may continue affirmative action in the form of vigorous outreach and recruitment efforts. Steps taken to increase the size of the applicant pool for a contracting or employment opportunity, including steps targeted at women and minorities, are permissible, so long as at the decision stage all applicants are judged in a nondiscriminatory manner; that is, without regard to their race or sex.

Those who support the use of preferences have the burden of explaining why anyone should receive an advantage of any kind based on race or gender. Quite simply, they have the burden of explaining why it is just for the Government to discriminate.

The supporters of preferences based on race and gender need to face the truth. The truth is that the system of preferences unfairly denies opportunities to those who have been guilty of no wrongdoing, simply because of their race or gender, while granting benefits to individuals who are not victims of discriminatory conduct.

The truth is that the existence of the system of race and gender preferences unfairly casts a cloud over the accomplishments of individuals who are members of favored groups and deprives those individuals of the full measure of respect they are due for their individual achievements.

The truth is that the system of race and gender preferences sends a message from our Government to the American people that we should continue to think along race and gender lines, a message which only reinforces prejudice and discrimination in our society.

We should recognize once and for all that each American has the right to be treated by our Government not as a member of a particular race or gender group but as an individual American citizen equal in the eyes of the law. This Congress should end the unfair system of race and gender preferences and we should do it now.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I would also like to address the topic of campaign finance reform. As the Members of the House know very well, the issue of campaign finance reform has been garnering a lot of attention lately. Newspapers and TV news have been very busy in documenting the excess and abuses, and there is plenty of blame to go around.

However, this House needs to be more constructive. In my opinion, it would be a complete waste of our time and the taxpayers' money if we spend hours and hours on hearings and merely use them to score political points.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is the solemn duty of this House to move in a more positive, forward-looking direction, and the issue of campaign finance reform is best resolved through legislation, not accusations. We can criticize and pontificate to each other, but something has to be put on the table, and quickly.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, last week the House Democrats triggered a procedural motion in order to bring this discussion to the House floor. I know there are many on both sides of the aisle who want to deal with the issue of campaign finance reform, but the bottom line is that the Democrats are in the minority and the Republicans are in the majority. It is because the Democrats essentially are in the minority and have not been able to bring this issue to the floor that it is necessary from time to time to use procedural motions to get the Republican leadership to respond to this issue. It was necessary last week, since the House Republican leadership has so far not taken up campaign finance reform as an issue.

President Clinton challenged this House to bring the issue to a vote by July 4 and, instead, this House, for months, has embarked on a schedule so insipid and unambitious that even conservative pundits and rank-and-file Republicans are beginning to admonish their own House leadership. So far, essentially, the House Republican leadership has not responded.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point out that when the Democrats were in the majority we were very active in trying to reform the campaign finance system, though oftentimes we were thwarted in our efforts. The very first campaign finance bill, which was passed following the abuses of the Watergate scandal, was passed by a Democratic majority.

□ 1300

Then in 1989 the Democratic majorities in both the House and the Senate passed campaign finance reform only to have the bill vetoed by then Republican President George Bush. Most recently, during the 103d Congress, with both the House and the Senate in the Democratic majority and a Democrat in the White House, the House passed H.R. 3, that year's campaign finance reform bill, by a vote of 255 to 175. The Senate then passed S. 3 by a vote of 60 to 38 after several weeks of Republican delay, including 24 separate votes on amendments. Democratic leaders of the Congress announced a compromise bill then between the House and the Senate versions, but the Republicans in the other body successfully led a filibuster to prevent the Congress from doing its work and drafting a final bill.

Mr. Speaker, the habit of Republican filibusters in opposition to campaign finance reform also goes back to the 102d, the 101st and the 100th Congress. Mr. Speaker, there should be no doubt in my mind that the Republicans clearly have no problem with the current